

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 247557

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 247557 ACTION LUANDA 17 OCT

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 247557

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, AO

SUBJECT:ANGOLAN CONTINGENCY PLANNING

1. DEPT NOW IN PROCESS OF REVIEWING OPTIONS RE RECOGNITION OF AN ANGOLAN GOVT AND STATUS OF US REPRESENTATION AFTER NOV. 10. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ASAP YOUR COMMENTS ON FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

2. WHAT SHOULD BE US POSITION ON RECOGNITION IF MPLA SETS UP OWN GOVT IN LUANDA AT TIME OF INDEPENDENCE AND IF:

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A) FNLA AND UNITA DENOUNCE MPLA'S LEGITIMACY AND CONTIN-

UE FIGHTING? (B) FNLA AND UNITA SET UP SEPARATE RIVAL GOVERNMENTS? (C) FNLA AND UNITA COOPERATE IN ESTABLISHING SINGLE RIVAL GOVERNMENT?

3. WHAT SHOULD BE LEVEL OF US REPRESENTATION, IF ANY, IN LUANDA IN THREE DIFFERENT SCENARIOS OUTLINED PARA 2 ABOVE? COULD CONGEN LUANDA CONTINUE TO SERVE USEFUL ROLE WITHOUT US RECOGNITION OF MPLA GOVT? WOULD SUCH GOVT ACCORD CONGEN APPROPRIATE TREATMENT, OR WOULD IT IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON CONGEN THAT WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO RECOGNITION? WHAT WOULD BE FNLA AND UNITA'S REACTION TO OUR MAINTAINING CONSULAR RELATIONS WITH MPLA GOVT IN LUANDA? WHAT WOULD BE MPLA'S REACTION TO OUR ESTABLISHING CONSULAR RELATIONS ALSO WITH FNLA/UNITA

GOVT THAT MIGHT BE SET UP ELSEWHERE IN ANGOLA?

4. IN CONNECTION WITH QUESTIONS RAISED ABOVE, ON OCT 16 UK EMBASSY CONVEYED TO DEPTOFF STATUS OF UK GOVT'S PLANNING RE RECOGNITION/REPRESENTATION. UK WORKING LEVEL VIEW IS THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES MPLA-CONSTITUTED GOVT WOULD NOT RPT NOT QUALIFY FOR RECOGNITION BUT MIGHT EVENTUALLY IF MPLA SUCCEEDS IN EXPANDING CONTROL OVER MOST OF ANGOLA FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE. BRITISH ARE WEIGHING PROS AND CONS OF REOPENING THEIR CONSULATE IN LUANDA WITHIN NEXT WEEK OR SO, IN ORDER TO AVOID ISSUE OF RECOGNITION WHICH WOULD ARISE IF THEY WAIT UNTIL AFTER INDEPENDENCE. THEY ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE CLOSER THEY WAIT TO INDEPENDENCE TO REOPEN, THE MORE THEIR ACTION WILL LOOK LIKE A STEP TOWARD RECOGNITION. ON THE OTHER HAND, BRITISH WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO REOPEN IF WE HAVE ANY IDEA OF CLOSING OUR CONGEN, OR IF THEY WOULD BE FACED WITH CLOSING UP AGAIN BECAUSE OF THE RECOGNITION ISSUE. DEPTOFF BRIEFED UK REP ON PRELIMINARY STATUS OF OUR OWN PLANNING AND AGREED TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH. WOULD APPRECIATE CONGEN LUANDA'S COMMENTS ON UK VIEWS, PARTICULARLY ON THEIR IDEA OF EARLY RESTAFFING OF THEIR CONSULATE. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE

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